



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,825	05/30/2001	Mitsuo Kawasaki	9281-4124	6114

7590 03/17/2004  
Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione  
P.O. Box 10395  
Chicago, IL 60610

EXAMINER

LETSCHER, GEORGE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2653

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/867,825

**Applicant(s)**

KAWASAKI ET AL.

**Examiner**

George J. Letscher

**Art Unit**

2653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2001.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 8-11 is/are rejected.  
7) ☒ Claim(s) 6,7 and 12-19 is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 5/30/01 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Claims 21-35 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected method of forming a soft magnetic film, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 6.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Yoshizawa et al (US 4,985,089).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshizawa et al (US 4,985,089) in view of Cole et al (US 5,452,164).

Regarding claims 8-11, Yoshizawa et al do not show the soft magnetic film in a thin film head having upper and lower core layers, upper and lower pole layers, a pole portion between the lower and upper core layers including a

gap layer, a coil layer on the gap layer with an insulating layer covering the coil layer. See Figure 5 of Cole et al.

Cole et al disclose a soft magnetic film in a thin film head being either upper and lower core layers (80, 81) or upper and lower pole layers (PT1b, PT2b). There is a pole portion (including PT1b, PT2b) between the lower and upper core layers including a gap layer (G), and there is a coil layer (108) on the gap layer with an insulating layer (I2) covering the coil layer. See Figure 5 of Cole et al.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have furnished the soft magnetic thin film layer as shown by Yoshizawa et al with the soft magnetic film in a thin film head having upper and lower core layers, upper and lower pole layers, a pole portion between the lower and upper core layers including a gap layer, a coil layer on the gap layer with an insulating layer covering the coil layer as taught by Cole et al. The rationale is as follows: one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have furnished the soft magnetic thin film layer as shown by Yoshizawa et al with the soft magnetic film in a thin film head having upper and lower core layers, upper and lower pole layers, a pole portion between the lower and upper core layers including a gap layer, a coil layer on the gap layer with an insulating layer covering the coil layer as taught by Cole et al in order to have eliminated flux leakage between the pole tips at the air bearing surface; column 3, lines 42-48 of Cole et al.

Art Unit: 2653

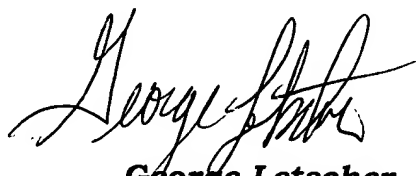
***Allowable Subject Matter***

7. Claims 6-7 and 12-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Letscher whose telephone number is (703) 305-7912.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

George Letscher  
March 8, 2004

  
**George Letscher**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**AU 2653**